

## **East Kings Sub Basin Meeting - GSA**

**DATE:** January 22, 2015

**TIME:** 2:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** ALTA ID, 289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA

**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Kapheim, Alta I.D.  
Norman Waldner, Alta I.D.  
Jack Brandt, Alta I.D.  
John Kalender, Alta I.D.  
Steven Worthley, Tulare County Supervisor  
Denise English, Tulare County  
Allan Weaver, Fresno County  
Augustine C. Ramirez, Fresno County  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley  
Dean K. Uota, City of Dinuba  
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove  
Dennis Keller, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts  
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley Engineer, Alta I.D.  
Doug Jensen, Attorney Alta I.D., Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts  
Lauren Layne, Attorney Alta I.D.  
Jack Paxton, Kings River Water District  
Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau  
John Kirk, DWR  
John Sanders, Orange Cove I.D.

**Welcome:** Chris Kapheim, AID GM welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (December 11, 2014):**

There were no objections to the minutes as presented.

**Placing approved minutes on Alta ID's website:**

There were no objections to posting the approved minutes and supporting documents on AID's website at [www.altaid.org](http://www.altaid.org) under the menu – GSA.

**Additions to Agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Interested Parties:**

Visited hatted

**Status of MOU:** The City of Reedley, Orange Cove Irrigation District and Alta Irrigation District have adopted the MOU. The City of Orange Cove, Hills Valley and Tri Valley Water Districts, Tulare County and

Kings River Water District have it on their agendas to review. The City of Dinuba will review at the February City Council meeting and take action.

**Discussion and direction :**

**Tricia Stever Blattler, Tulare County Farm Bureau** asked if the MOU was just for public agencies. The response was the MOU was to signify interest in the process. She intends on taking the MOU to her board for review.

There will be a hearing in April, all MOU's need to be adopted by then.

**Formation of Separate Sub Basin:**

DWR Rules and Regulations developing boundary changes/separate sub basins: Chris Kapheim reviewed the strict guidelines in recent legislation regarding boundary changes and establishing revisions to a GSA sub-basin.

Legislation

**Example of Legislative Groundwater Management Act (Fox Canyon):** Identifies sub-basin boundaries and a five member board governance structure as one representative from each of the five groups (1) County (2) City (3) Water District (4) Special District and (5) Agriculture.

**Power point of essential elements for a Groundwater Management Act;** Chris Kapheim went over the Sub-Basin GSA Pre-planning power point addressing two administrative issues: defining the sub-basin area and governance. The boundaries for the sub-basin should be based on hydrological criteria; the proposed governance including agriculture (based on existing Fox Canyon Groundwater Program established by the legislation in 1982 to address their groundwater pumping issues).

**Timeline:** February 27, 2014 is the deadline to submit a legislative proposal to create a special act groundwater management agency to comply with Water Code Section 10723© to implement existing groundwater management law.

Interconnection between Rules and Regulations and Legislation:

After the power point presentation, Chris Kapheim asked the group for their thoughts.

**Denise English, Tulare County** asked if it would take special legislation to have Ag at the table.

**Tricia Stever Blattler** was also looking at the Fox Canyon model and asked if anyone was interested in talking to a Fox Canyon representative.

**Doug Jensen, Attorney** – commented the Fox Canyon model may work for other GSA's and become the general act as it gathers support.

**Chris Kaphiem** suggested, to be successful we would need Ag at the table; similar to Fox Canyon since Ag would be a substantial partner in attaining sustainability. To do so, we would need an MOU or

legislation. He said that Alta ID has shown interest in submitting legislation. He asked if there was a consensus to submit such a bill on behalf of the group.

**Steven Worthy, Tulare County Supervisor** –added the county also has access to a lobbyist. He also suggested as an option, of having the Governor appoint an Ag representative, similar to the Air Board appointees, but preferred local control.

A draft template for the bill was reviewed by the group. (see Attached) The bill would set the GSA area boundary and governance structure outline. It was kept simple as a placeholder.

**Steven Worthely** asked when the Board would be identified.

**Chris Kapheim** responded it would be developed further during the next 30 to 60 days.

**Jack Paxton, KRWD** questioned the name of the GSA: Kings River East Groundwater Management Agency. He asked if the agency ever revisited their process and about term limits.

**Kapheim** said Fox Canyon does file annual reports and there is always the possibility of amending special acts to reflect changes.

**Doug Jensen Attorney** said all positions had a two year term limit, multiple terms were possible.

**Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley Manager**, expressed concerns with the City of Reedley's boundaries overlapping two GSA's if the boundary was made at the river and likelihood of double assessments.

**Steven Worthy** said the County of Tulare will be working with three GSA's and said it made sense to have each supervisor monitor their own basin.

**Nicole Zieba**, stated that after agriculture, cities were the largest users and was concerned with only one vote shared between three cities.

**Gary Horn Engineer, representing City of Orange Cove** – asked if the other irrigation/water districts and special districts would make up the Special District group.

There was interest among the group to have a Fox Canyon board representative speak to our group.

**Chris Kapheim** suggested the cities come together to determine how they will have representation; they can rotate the position, these are all details that will be worked out in the details. Chris asked if anyone had any objection to Assemblyman Perea carrying the bill.

**Nicole** said it is a good idea.

There was no objection to having Assemblyman Perea carry the bill.

#### **Other items for Discussion:**

**John Kirk, DWR** suggested that DWR would most likely be resistant to allow smaller sub basins; bigger not smaller. Coming regulations will address GSA boundaries.

**Chris Kapheim** was willing to have those discussions with DWR.

**Tricia Stever Blattler** Would the intended legislation be to have it specify GSA governance? She asked if our counter-parts have considered using the county boundaries.

**Chris Kaphiem** suggested the boundaries be determined on a hydrological basis to be successful; DWR's Bulletin 118 has initially set the regional boundaries.

**Tris Stever Blattler** – was asked how Cities would fit into the GSA.

**Chris Kapheim** reminded everyone to focus on how we can be successful and basically advised all interested parties to look at how they can address their own individual issues. He reminded everyone that one size does not fit all; different issues call for different solutions.

**Nicole Zieba** asked Allen Weaver from the Fresno County for his thoughts on working with multiple GSA's

**Allan Weaver, Fresno County** responded that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors has assigned two directors to look at groundwater issues.

**Dennis Keller, Engineer** explained how Bulletin 118 was originally set up to reflect the natural aquifer, recognizing the natural boundaries of the Kings River basin with respect to the distribution of surface water and not necessarily where the alluvial fans exist.

**Chris Kapheim** asked if there were any other questions. He will inquire more information pertaining to Fox Canyon's governance implementations. He restated that he will be submitting the proposed bill to Assemblyman Perea today. He said the group would continue to work on the bill; the specific language is due 2/27/15. He will direct AID staff to post the approved minutes and supporting documents on the [altheid.org](http://altheid.org) website under the menu tab: GSA

**Chris Kapheim** said from a collective point of view, we want to be in position to be ready to initiate our plan as soon as we are ready to work on it. We need to initially set up our agency to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

**Steve Worthly** compared the GSA to the Air Board that meets to fulfill a mandate; it will be the logical groups, sharing a common interest represented at the table.

**Chris Kapheim** reminded the group that prior to 2020, a funding mechanism will need to be set up to fund the study and implement the plan. By 2020 we should already be meeting goals; this was why we were starting early.

**Next Meeting Thursday, February 26, 2015**